WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A table for associating an Internet Protocol (IP) address with a Policy Enforcement Point (PEP), wherein the table at least comprises a column for ranges of IP addresses and a column for the PEPs associated with the IP address ranges, and a number of rows, each row listing an IP address range and its associated PEP.

2.   The table according to claim 1, wherein the column for the PEPs lists a primary PEP for a certain IP address range, and wherein the table further comprises a column listing a secondary PEP for a certain IP address range, thus associating an IP address with a first and a secondary PEP.

3.   A Policy Decision Point (PDP) comprising at least one stored data record comprising an Internet Protocol (IP) address range and a Policy Enforcement Point (PEP) associated with the IP address range.

4.   The PDP according to claim 3, wherein the PEP in each data record is the primary PEP for the IP address range and wherein the data record further comprises a secondary PEP associated with the IP address range.

5.   The PDP according to claim 3, wherein the PDP resides in a Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) network.

6.   The PDP according to claim 5, wherein the PDP is an IP Policy Control (IPPC).

7.   The PDP according to claim 5, wherein the PDP resides in a Proxy Call State Control Function (P-CSCF).

8.   A method for updating a data record associating an Internet Protocol (IP) address range with at least one Policy Enforcement Point (PEP), wherein the data record resides in a network node, the method comprising steps of:
     - sending by the PEP to the network node a message comprising the IP addresses it is assigned, and
     - upon reception of the message by the network node, updating the corresponding data record.

9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein the network node is a Policy Decision Point (PDP)

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the IP addresses sent in the message are represented by at least one IP address range.

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11. The method according to claim 8, wherein the data record is an entry in a table.

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12. A method for updating a data record associating an Internet Protocol (IP) address range with a Policy Enforcement Point (PEP), wherein the data record resides in a network node, the method comprising steps of:

— sending by the PEP routing information to the network node; and

— upon reception of the routing information at the network node:

— extracting from the routing information the IP addresses assigned to the PEP; and

— updating the data record.

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13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the network node is a Policy Decision Point (PDP)

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14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the IP addresses in the routing information are represented by at least one IP address range.

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15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the data record is an entry in a table.

1   16.   The method according to claim 12, wherein the routing
2   information is sent using a standard routing protocol.

1   17.   A method for sending policy information from a Policy
2   Decision Point (PDP) to a Policy Enforcement Point
3   (PEP), the method comprising steps of:
4   – reading by the PDP from a data record associating
5   IP addresses and PEPs, the PEP associated with the
6   certain IP address; and
7   – sending the policy information to the PEP
8   associated with the IP address.

1   18.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the data
2   record is part of a table.

3   19.   The method according to claim 18, wherein the table
4   resides within the PDP.

1   20.   A Common Open Policy Service Protocol (COPS) for
2   communication between a Policy Decision Point (PDP)
3   and a Policy Enforcement Point (PEP), wherein a Client
4   Open (OPN) message further comprises a field listing
5   the IP addresses assigned to the PEP.

1   21.   The COPS protocol according to claim 20, wherein a
2   Report (RPT) message further comprises a field listing
3   the IP addresses assigned to the PEP.

1 22. The protocol according to claim 20, wherein a Report
2   (RPT) message further comprises a field listing
3   changes to the IP addresses assigned to the PEP.